Policemen and Firemen — 1938

Alabama

Birmingham, Ala. Post
September 20, 1938

NEGRO OFFICERS ARE CONSIDERED

Connor Advances Proposal For Few Districts In Birmingham

A trial balloon, aimed at getting public reaction to the idea of adding three or four Negroes to the Police Department personnel, was released at City Hall today.

Police Commissioner Eugene Connor said the subject was first broached at an impromptu meeting of police sergeants and captains last night.

Birmingham is one of few Southern cities that does not have Negro patrolmen in its Negro districts.

"There is no plan underfoot looking toward the hiring of Negroes,' the police commissioner said. "However, I see no reason why the matter could not be investigated."

Mr. Connor intimated investigations would be made in Southern cities now using Negro officers. He admitted he did not know how police superiors in Birmingham would react to the idea.

Although they said even the possibility itself was "revolutionary and filled with political dynamite," many members of the Police Department were of the opinion that Negro districts—particularly the area in and about Fourth-av and 18th-st, n—could be more efficiently patrolled with Negro officers.

It was generally believed at City Hall that the idea had not yet approached even an embryonic stage and that no definite plan would be formulated unless public sentiment seemed favorable.

Policemen and Firemen – 1938

California

Mayor Stands By Negro Policemen

Says They Are Victims Of Prejudice

Los Angeles, Calif., March 21 (ANP)—Standing staunchly by the colored officers on the police vice squad whose jobs have been demanded by a group of reformers who have been conducting an investigation for over a month, Mayor Frank L. Shaw declared last week that they could not be removed. The officers in question are Clayborne Stovall and Richmond Dunn.

Said the mayor to a mass meeting of the Federation for Civic Betterment that demanded the men's release: 'These resolutions demanding that I remove certain members of the police department appear to be based upon a prejudicial conception of the facts, and a complete misunderstanding of the law. Until the constitution of the United States, the constitution of the state and the charter of the city of Los Angeles are repealed, I cannot even seriously consider these demands nor the threats made against me, personally, if I do not accede to them."

LOS ANGELES HAS HAD COLORED FIREMEN MORE THAN 40 YEARS

(By RALPH MATTHEWS)

LOS ANGELES, CAL.

If given his choice the average small boy would rather be a fireman than be the President of the United States.

In Los Angeles, the sepia youth has a better chance to realize the former ambition than in most cities because that municipality has two colored fire companies dating their history back to 1903, and individuals have been on the force for more than 40 years in white companies.

There are 40 men on the force in the two colored companies including six captains. The shifts are divided into crews of seven men each. The rank of lieutenant is no longer used but the equivalent is known as engineer and next in rank is auto-fireman.

Los Angeles has had colored firemen for more than 40 years Capt. Harry Brown has been in retirement for five years after serving for 30 years.

Not All Fun

But, according to Captain G. S. Bailey, of Engine Company No. 14, who has seen 22 years of active service, being a fireman is not all fun and glamour as the average boy imagines. It is hard work and rigid discipline and living on the edge of violent and sudden death.

Capt. Bailey admitted that being a fireman back in the good old days of horse-drawn engines was much more exciting than in this motorized age. The truth is, he admitted, he joined the force more for his love for horses than anything else.

Back in those days, he said, one of the chief pastimes of firemen during the long hours between fires was knitting shawls for the horses, but today with no horses if the firemen try to knit they are laughed at.

The chief recreation now is checkers, pee wee golf, volley ball and ping pong At one time they had a quartet and string orchestra, but there has been a lot of backsliding done on this score of late.

Must Study

Nor is the firemen's job finished when he gets appointed and he does not settle down to a life of ease. It is a process of hard work and study because the new methods of fighting fires with chemicals is ever changing.

A fireman, the captain especially, must know just what chemical to use on any given fire because water does not stop all fires. In factory areas the engines in their vicinity are equipped with the chemicals best suited to counteract fires in these respective plants. The same condition obtains where gas stations and laundries are concerned.

For this purpose regular weekly classes are conducted in each fire house in which the men learn every angle of fire fighting from scientific practices to first aid.

Alternate Shifts

Firemen work on alternating shifts of 24 hours each. They work a night and a day and are off for the same time, but technically a fireman is never off duty except when he is on furlough or vacation. During his off hours he is always subject to call in case of a violent fire, storm or tornado.

Policemen and Firemen—1938

Colorado.

TWO RACE FIREMEN KILLED ANSWERING ALARM: 10 HURT

Defender

DENVER, Colo., July 22—Going at full speed in answer to an alarm to put out a fire at a dance pavilion, two fire trucks crashed together on a town street Monday, resulting in the death of two firemen and doing injury to 10 other persons.

7-23-38

James E. Simpson, Race fireman, was almost instantly killed when the track on which he was riding was struck broadside by a hook-and-ladder truck.

Chicago Bee

Capt. G. W. Brooks, also of the Race, riding the other truck, died shortly after the accident. He was a veteran in the service and had risen to the highest rank of any Race man in the department.

After colliding the trucks careened into three parked autos and crushed them injuring four persons seriously.

Four other persons were slightly injured and released from the hospital after first aid treatment. One of the injured, a fireman, is still in a critical condition.

Policemen and Firemen - 1938.

Connecticut.

Probationa
Given Regular Job

7-30-38

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., July 28—(By Inez M. Holley for ANP)—Following expiration last week of his six-months probationary period, George E. Clark, first Negro here to be appointed to the fire department, was approved as a permanent member of the department at a meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

The Board's action was based on the favorable report of Fire Chief Thomas F. Burns, who recommended Clark's permanent certification and remarked that he had done "very good work."

Policemen and Firemen — 1938

D.C.

Three Named as Policemen

Join D. C. Police Force

WASHINGTON.

Among the thirty-two new policemen appointed recently who this week, began a 30-day training period i nthe police school are three colored officers.

They are:

Ernest R. Amos, Jr., 25, of 1600 Thirteenth Street, Northwest; Robert W. Hough, 26, 745 Gresham Place, Northwest, and Joseph O. Curtis, 23, of 801 Delaware Avenue, Southwest.

The appointment of the men was included in the reorganization of the entire police set-up here last week as the new fiscal year began. The reorganization involved the changing of boundaries of six precincts, the transfer of 150 officers and men, and the establishment of the new Thirteenth precinct, as relief for the congestion at the Second precinct on U Street, Northwest.

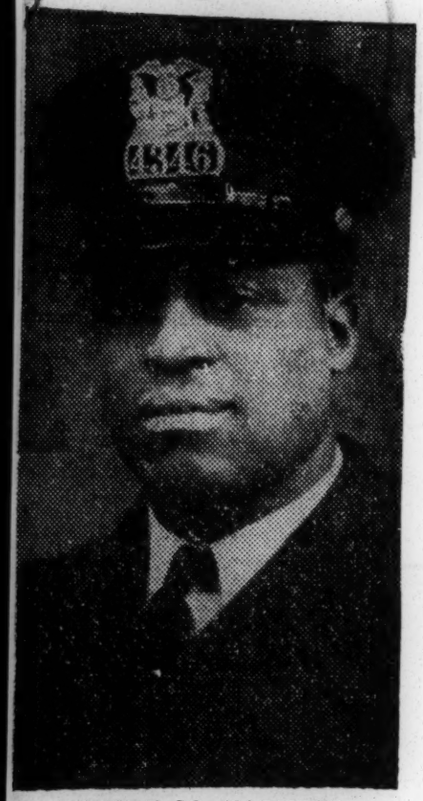
All three of the new policemen appointed are college graduates. Amos, a native of the city, attended the local public schools and Dunbar High and later received a degree at Lincoln University, Oxford, Pa. He resigned as clerk in the city post office to accept the policeman's job.

Hough came to Washington from Coatesville, Pa., and graduated from Howard University. He was also employed by the Government when he received an appointment. Curtis is a recent graduate of Miner Teachers' College. He is a native of the city and was educated in the public schools.

Ernest R. Amos, Jr., left, Robert W. Hough, and Joseph O. Curtis, right, were recently appointed to the Washington, D. C. police force. All three are college graduates. Mr. Amos was elected treasurer of the police instruction class in which the 32 new appointees have been dispatched for a 30 day course.

Policemen and Firemen – 1938. Illinois.

Sergeant



ROBERT M. HARNESS

The Civil Service commission announced this week that Robert M. Harness, 3715 Indiana avenue, a detective assigned to Wabash avenue station, had finished ninth in the city-wide examination for police sergeants. This marked the first time in history that a member of the race had received such a rating in the sergeantcy examinations.

Colored Detective Captures Desperate Woman Bank Robber

Chris Covington May Get Hero's Award For Exploit In Chicago

12-30-38

Chicago, Dec. 28 (ANP)—Although he had no reason to doubt that the white woman who had just robbed the Drexel State bank of $5,000 at noon Wednesday, would blow up the place with nitroglycerine as she had threatened, City Detective Chris Covington, who happened to be present at the time, risked his life to seize the robber and save the money. For his bravery, he may receive a hero's award.

The woman, Mrs. Mary Cheek McCollum Schuch, went to the president's office and after a short conversation presented him with a printed note stating she was "Bess Carney, boss of the Carney Mob," and demanding $5,000. In her coat pocket was what seemed a gun. Then she produced tw osmall vials containing a clear liquid she declared was nitroglycerine. Outside the bank, she said, were four members of her gang, two wearing cab drivers' caps, and all heavily armed. The bank president looked through the window. Peering in was a man with a cabbie's cap. So the official made out a draft, went to the teller's window, and got it cashed. He gave her the money and she started out, saying, "It's a good thing you did this."

Detective Covington, who drops in the bank every noon in plain clothes heard the remark and was suspicious. As the woman was leaving, Neal managed to whisper he had been held up and told the detective of the woman's possession of the powerful explosive.

Covington followed her outside the door, so as not to endanger anyone inside the bank. Then he pinioned her arms, took her back in the bank and searched her.

The explosive was found to be water and the "gun" in her pocket was a curling iron. She was broke and needed money for Christmas and to pay her eight year old daughter's school expenses, she said. Mrs. Schuch has been estranged from her husband for sometime, she declared, and conceived the robbery idea in the belief its very boldness would bring success.

The man peering in the window with a cab driver's cap? He really was a cab driver who had brought the woman to the bank thinking she was an ordinary fare and was keeping an eye on her so that she wouldn't get away without paying her bill.

Policemen and Firemen—1938

Illinois.

CHICAG INTED RACE SERGEANTS ARE SWORN IN

1-1-38 Chicago, Ill.

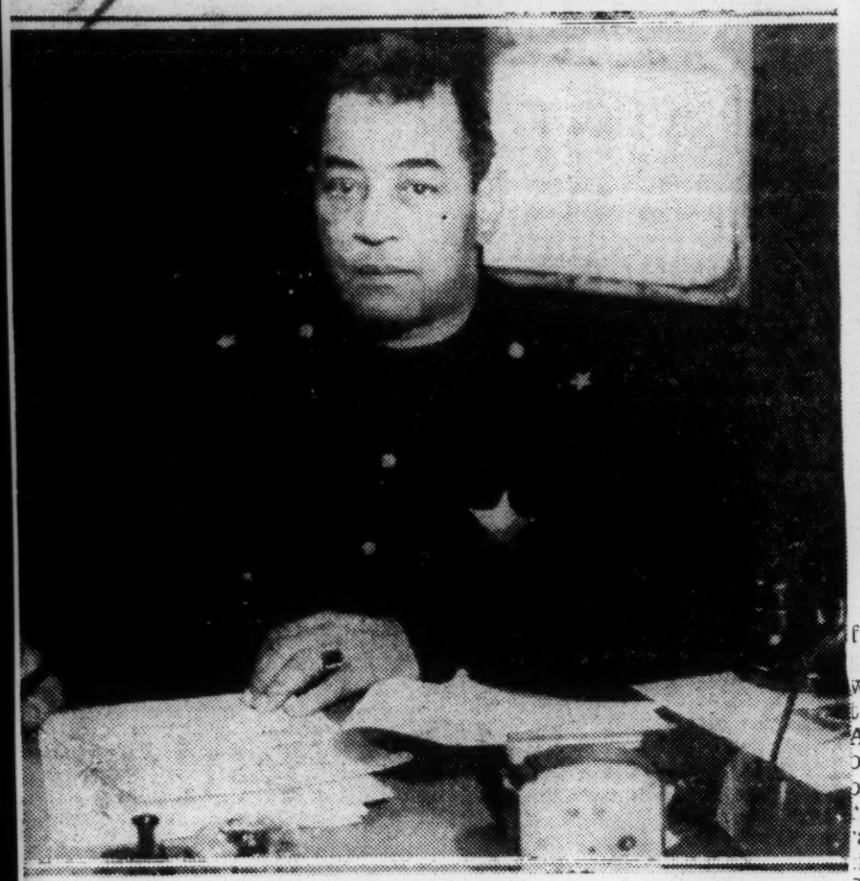
Six members of the race were among the 155 patrolmen elevated to sergeancy Friday at the city hall. The ceremony consisted of talks by Mayor Edward J. Kelly, the civil service commissioners, headed by President Joseph P. Geary and Commissioner of Police James P. Allman. This photo, made exclusive for the Chicago Defender, shows the mayor, members of the civil service commission, the commissioner of police and the six new Race sergeants. Seated left to right, are: Civil Service Commissioner John E. Brennan, President Joseph Geary, Mayor Edward J. Kelly, Commissioner Wendell E. Green, and James Osborne, chief examiner and secretary. Standing, left to right: James P. Allman, commissioner of police; Robert Harness, Harry Deas, David Jenkins, Carl Nelson, Alfonzie Hagan, and Kinzie Blueitt.

Chicago Defender 1-9-38 Chicago, Ill.

NAMED ACTING POLICE CAPTAIN IN CHICAGO

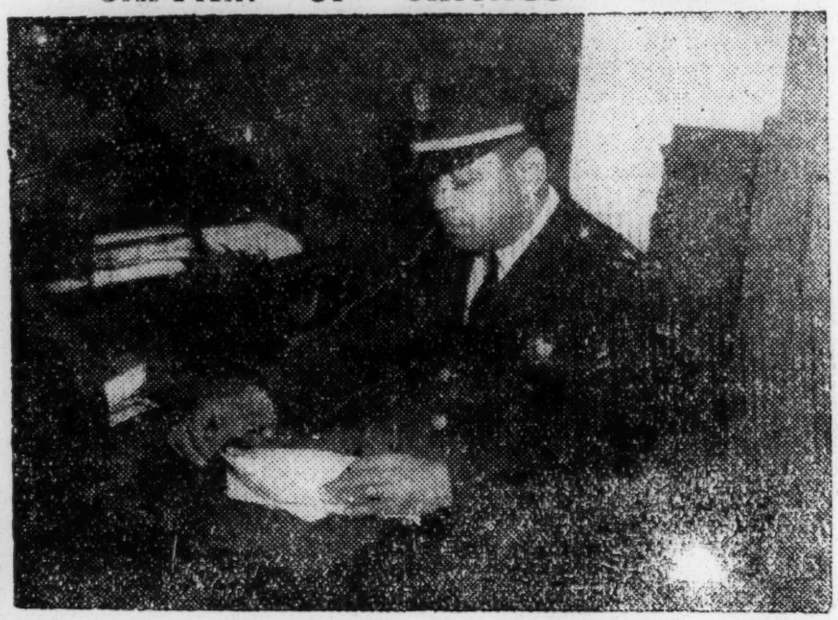
CHICAGO, (ANP)—Lt. William A. Middleton, a member of the Chicago police department since 1919, has been named acting captain of the fifth district police by Commissioner James Allman during the absence of Captain Eugene Barry now on vacation. This is understood to be the first time a Negro has acted as police captain in a large city.

FIRST ACTING CAPTAIN



Lieut. William D. Middleton, one of the first colored lieutenants, appointed in the Chicago police department, and successor to Capt. Gene Barry of the Fifth District in the heart of the colored section. Lieut. Middleton is the first colored officer to be named acting police captain.

FORMER SAVANNAHIAN NOW ACTING CAPTAIN OF CHICAGO POLICE



(Photo, courtesy Chicago Defender).

LT. WILLIAM A. MIDDLETON who was appointed acting captain last week by Capt. Eugene A. Barry, Fifth District, who left on a vacation. The designation of Lt. Middleton for this high rank marks the first time a race officer has filled a like position in the history of the Chicago police department.

Lieutenant Middleton's steady advancement in the Chicago police force is a matter of much gratification to Savannahian as he is a native of this city moving to Chicago when quite a young man. As a boy he was one of the leaders of the West Broad street school and was prominent in local athletics. He is the son of the late Mrs. Jennie Powell and the brother of Mrs. Marie Butler Poitte of 535 Robert street this city.

Policemen and Firemen- 1938

Kentucky

IN THE NORTH, THE LAW'S RIGHT, DIXIE'S IDEAS DIFFERENT

Pittsburgh Courier

So Kentucky Finds Negro Cop Guilty In Altercation With University of Kentucky Student

4-30-38 Pittsburgh, Pa

LEXINGTON, Ky., April 28—(Special)—Finding Jas. Paige, 26, colored policeman, guilty of assault and battery, in connection with an altercation last Sunday between the officer and Clark Cramer, 19, a student at the University of Kentucky, a jury in Circuit court here Wednesday, imposed a fine of $25 on the policeman. Temporarily suspended from duty with the police department, Officer Paige is to be given a hearing before the Board of City Commissioners.

The altercation ensued when a State owned car driven by Paige, and another automibile which Chamer was driving barely missed colliding at a street intersection.

Cramer claimed Paige forced him to swerve so widely that his machine almost hit a telephone pole.

Admits Cursing Cop

He said he cursed the officer before driving on to a filling station. The policeman testified the student was driving recklessly at a high rate of speed.

It was claimed by Cramer that during the argument between them at the filling station, Officer Paige slapped him twice and drew his pistol when three white youths emerged from the station. The policeman denied that he struck Cramer, or that he produced a weapon of any kind during the difficulty.

Valet Fails to Appear

James Limstorn, colored valet to Governor A. B. Chandler, who was temporarily in charge of the State car that the policeman was driving, did not appear at the officer's trial.

Policemen and Firemen-1938

Maryland.

HE'S NO MOUNTIE, BUT OFFICER SCOTT ALWAYS GETS HIS MAN

Attache of the Missing Persons' Bureau Gets Women and Children, Too, He Reveals

WASHINGTON

Although he is not a Northwest mountie, Officer Samuel M. Scott, attached to the public relations squad whose business it is to locate missing persons in the District of Columbia, always gets his man.

The public relations squad, formerly known as the crime prevention bureau, was organized in 1932.

Mr. Scott was born in Washington, where he was educated in the public schools. He joined the police force July 21, 1925, and was assigned to old No. 8 Precinct, in the 900 block of U Street, Northwest, under Capt. Robert E. Doyle.

He worked out of this station for seven years, after which the precinct was re-organized, and became known as No. 2. Later, he was assigned to scout car patrol duty.

Was Once Painter

When questioned by the AFRO as to why he became a policeman, he said that after working at the Department of Agriculture for several years, he engaged in the painting and decorating business.

He became disgusted in this line of work, because it was hard to get competent men to assist him. Many times the men he employed would mix the paints wrong, which would result in a loss to him, he said, so he abandoned the idea, and joined the police force.

Officer Scott says he had many thrilling experiences when he worked with the vice squad, during prohibition days. On numerous occasions, in chasing rum runners through the city, he would get choked by smoke screens.

Serves Presidents

Mr. Scott is always detailed to duty whenever the President of the United States goes or comes, and is also detailed when necessary, to legations, labor troubles and communistic gatherings.

Day by day, Officer Scott aids persons throughout the entire U.S. in locating their lost relatives. Those who are reported to police as being lost or missing by friends and relatives, can find help in this officer, who never fails if the parties remain here long enough.

Mr. Scott is one of seven children of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Henry Scott, 523 Twenty-third Street, Northwest, where he resides with his relatives. He has a fine record with the police department.

SAMUEL M. SCOTT.

Wilson Visions Colored Police in 3 Months

For the second time in four days the appointment of colored police was predicted this week when Edward N. Wilson stated that "within ninety days our police will be patroling the streets in Baltimore."

Mr. Wilson, instructor at the Colored Policemen's Training School, was the main speaker at the initial meeting of the People's Congress in Cosmopolitan Community Church on Tuesday night.

Traces Progress

Mr. Wilson, talking from his manuscript on civic righteousness and responsibility, traced the progress made by the colored citizenry of Maryland under the present administration.

Citing a few of these accomplishments, the Morgan College registrar, mentioned the change of management at the Maryland Training School for Girls, and at Cheltenham; the appointment of more representatives on State boards and commissions, inclusion on the board of visitors at Henryton, and the appointment of Mrs. Violet Hill Whyte in the local police department.

The meeting was presided over by Joseph Claiborne, president of the newly organized forum. The other officers are Miss Mayme Watson, first vice president; Edward Hinkson, second vice president; Melvin Callaman, third vice president; Miss Anna Hicks, recording secretary; Guise Mercer, financial secretary, and Miss Helen Claiborne, treasurer.

The speaker for next Tuesday's program will be George Sellmayer, president of the city council.

OFFICER ALWAYS ON DUTY, POLICEWOMAN WHYTE FINDS

BALTIMORE.

A police officer is never really off duty, Mrs. Violet Hill Whyte, police woman, learned on Sunday when her first leave of absence was interrupted by arresting a man charged with burglary.

While enjoying the confines of her home, Mrs. Whyte was called upon to arrest Robert Ambery, 24, of 526 Hoffman Street, who had allegedly broken into a house at 605 Carrollton Avenue.

Found in Hallway

The man was found hiding in a darkened hallway and taken to Northwestern police station where he was fined $5 and costs for disturbing the peace. The burglary charge was dropped.

Negro Police Appointed In Baltimore, Md.

Commissioner Establishes Precedent In History Of City

BALTIMORE, July—(ANP)—Four Negroes were named to the police force Friday by Commissioner William P. Lawson in an act unprecedented in this city's history.

The apopintees, graduates of either Morgan college or Douglass high school, stood high on the list of applicants eligible for appointment. They must pass physical examinations and detective investigations before being put to work. Several months ago Lawson appointed a colored policewoman.

Lawson Picks 4 Policemen

All High School Graduates; 9 More Hold High Ratings

BALTIMORE

Four applicants among those who passed the recent police examination have been selected to take their two months of preliminary training for appointment to the force, Commissioner William P. Lawson announced this week.

The men, who will become the first colored officers to be appointed to the Baltimore police department are:

WALTER T. EUBANKS, JR.

HARRY S. SCOTT

MILTON GARDNER

J. HIRAM BUTLER, JR.

They were among twenty-six colored men who passed the examination and in the thirteen listed in the first group from which the appointees to the department are to be selected.

Following their police school training they are expected to become regular rookies and begin active duties as uniformed police officers.

Later on, it is expected, the other nine near the top of the list will be selected by the commissioner to follow this first contingent.

Pass Physical Tests

The four men selected were students in the police school organized by the Maryland League of Colored Republican Voters, of which Marse S. Callaway is president.

They passed rigid preliminary physical examinations given by Dr. W. F. Noville at Provident Hospital in order to make certain that they could take without difficulty the regular police department examinations.

Mr. Eubanks, who lives at 611 W. Mulberry Street, is a high school graduate and completed the junior class work at Morgan College.

At the Callaway police school he was rated high in personality, mental alertness and industry. He has been active in religious and civic affairs in the community. He is 31 years of age.

Rated Group Leader

Mr. Scott, 33 years of age, of 109 Firsting Avenue, Catonsville, is also a Douglass High School graduate. At the Callaway School he was rated as a good group leader, highly conscientious, careful and dependable. He is an active member of the church and well liked in the community.

Mr. Gardner, 31, who lives at 2518 Druid Hill Avenue was graduated at Douglass. His record also shows him to be a working church member with fine reputation in his community and among those for whom he has worked.

Mr. Butler, 29, of 1516 McCulloh Street was graduated from Douglass High School and Morgan College. He was rated in the Callaway school as loyal, wide awake and courageous.

See Responsibility

In interviews this week all of the men stated that they regarded the selection for police appointment as placing grave responsibilities upon them to make good.

Immediately following the announcement by Commissioner Lawson, Marse S. Callaway stated that plans are being worked out to hold a public celebration in the Fifth Regiment Armory that will bring together the civic, fraternal, religious and and business organizations in the city.

Mr. Callaway regards the outcome as a milestone in the history of the city. "I thank God I thank the colored and white people who have carried on this fight for years, and I thank Governor Harry W. Nice and Commissioner Lawson for keeping the pledge they made to appoint colored men to the department," he exclaimed.

Baltimore Gets Four Negro Police

BALTIMORE.—(ANP) — Four Negro men were named to the police force Friday by Commissioner William P. Lawson in an act unprecedented in this city history.

The appointees, graduates of either Morgan College or Douglass High School, stood high on the list of applicants eligible for appointment. They must pass physical examinations and detective investigations before being put to work. Several months ago, Lawson appointed a colored policewoman.

Policemen and Firemen — 1938

Maryland

3 Baltimore Cops Sworn

Fourth Expects to Get His Commission Later

BALTIMORE.

"We will make good, because we are making history." "You can depend upon us to pull through." "We will put everything we have into it."

These three terse sentences were the composite messages Harry S. Scott, Milton O. Gardner, and J. Hiram Butler, Baltimore's first colored duly-sworn-in police officers, gave the AFRO-AMERICAN as they stood in line with twenty-nine white candidates to receive official induction into office, Thursday morning.

A few moments later, to be exact, at 12:10, they took the oath, and thus ended the long fight to get colored police on the local force.

Shortly after the men filed out of Commisioner Lawson's office, he told an AFRO reporter that he wished the colored candidates, along with the whites, the best of luck.

Walter T. Eubanks, whose records were not completed in time for him to be sworn in with his companions may be appointed later, Commissioner Lawson said.

On Probation Now

Although the men must pass through the routine probationary period, they are now officially officers in the police department. They will begin immediately a period of intensive training in court practices, the processes of making arrests, and other features of police work.

Shortly they will take turns in being sent out with seasoned officers to get first hand knowledge of police duties and to learn the ropes. Their pay began from the moment they were sworn in.

Other appointments of colored applicants will be made as men qualify and get on the lists, Commissioner Lawson said.

The ceremony of swearing in the men took fifteen minutes, after which they filed out of the office of the commissioner and went over into the office of his secretary where the details of further activities were given them.

Officer Scott lives at 109 Fusting Avenue, Catonsville; Officer Gardner resides at 2518 McCulloh Street, while Offfficer utler lives at 1516 McCulloh Street.

Marse S. Callaway, who established the police school which prepared the men for the examinations, was among those present to congratulate the appointees. Later, he said, a city-wide public celebration of the opening of the police department to colored citizens will be held.

Following the ceremony swearing in the new officers, Marse S. Callaway said that it was a demonstration that we have in Maryland as fair and as courageous white citizens as we have in the whole country.

He further said:

"All we have to do is to find and help vote such men as Governor Nice and Commissioner Lawson in office.

"It also shows that colored citizens are getting together in their main objectives, and will rally behind leadership that gets results.

"If we can keep this spirit going, we can bring about the improvements and get the things that we have a right to have.

"While some of us have played a more prominent role in bringing the police appointments to a successful conclusion, the credit must be given to Governor Nice, Commissioner Lawson and the growing progressiveness of colored and white citizens, who would not permit a reactionary group to halt fair play."

Policemen and Firemen—1938 Michigan. 6

Detroit Has Had Colored Policemen Fifty Years

4 Women among 40 Members of Detroit Force

5-21-38

DETROIT — The Motor City has had members of both races connected with its police department for about fifty years and among the first colored officers was Henry Tolliver, who was buried with full departmental honors in June, 1911.

Today, Detroit has forty colored officers, four of them being policewomen. Others on the staff include: 1 detective lieutenant, 4 detective sergeants, 12 detectives, 18 uniformed patrolmen, and 1 police matron.

A few of the officers are assigned as follows:

Det. Sergt. W. A. Fuller, special investigation squad; Det. Sergt. Rex Smith, Thirteenth precinct; Det. Wash Hardy, women's division; Det. William Simmons, Ninth precinct;

Patrolmen John Scott and Theodore Robinson, Thirteenth precinct; auto patrol driver Harrison Campbell, Eleventh precinct, and Patrolman Ernest Thomas, Ninth precinct.

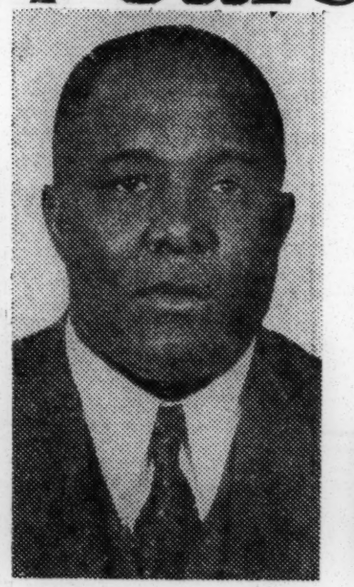
Win Citations

According to Det. Lieut. Wallace S. Williams, America's police system is copied after that of England, and New York was the first to have such a system. In addition to the ordinary police system, he pointed out, there are such agencies as: Secret Service FBI, liquor enforcement, narcotic, immigration, and customs.

Numerous colored men have been attached to these various agencies during the past sixty years, the officer asserted, and some have obtained high achievements, citations, meritorious mention for valor in the performance of their duties.

In more recent years, he further said, colored women are being taken into the law enforcement agencies of several large cities.

Patrolman Theodore Robinson, left, and Patrolman John Scott, who are attached to the Thirteenth precinct station.



Detective William Simmons, who is attached to the Ninth precinct station.

Detective Sergeant Rex Smith, who is attached to Thirteenth precinct station.

Detective Sergeant William A. Fuller, attached to special investigation.

Lieut. Wallace S. Williams, ranking officer of Detroit police department

Auto patrol driver Harrison Campbell attached to the Eleventh precinct.

Patrolman Ernest Thomas, who is attached to the Ninth precinct station.

Detective Wash Hardy, who is attached to the women's division of the force.

Mob Threatens New Firemen in Detroit

By RUSS J. COWANS

DETROIT—Marcena Taylor and Marvin White, two rookie firemen, had to have police protection when they reported for work at engine house No. 34 at West Warren and Livernois Avenues, Saturday.

Taylor and White, both qualified by civil service and assigned to Engine Company 34, found the side entrance to the building blocked by a mob that had congregated, allegedly at the instigation of the Firemen's Association.

Despite the pleas of Richard Reaume, white, secretary of the Fire Commission, and an inspector of police, to the crowd, that the men were qualified and had been assigned to duty at the engine house by the city, a fist fight ensued and it took a squadron of police to get the men into the building.

The Firemen's Association, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, made an attempt to frustrate the assignment of the colored firemen, Friday.

Complained to Mayor

A delegation visited City Hall and attempted to see Mayor Richard W. Reading to lodge a protest with him.

Frank X. Martel, president of the Wayne County American Federation of Labor, allegedly telephoned the mayor Friday night and warned him that the men would not be permitted to enter the building Saturday morning.

When it was announced earlier in the year that White and Taylor had passed the examination, the Firemen's Association lodged a protest, saying it would not permit colored firemen to sleep in the fire station, and threatened to carry the fight to court.

White said that he was born within two blocks of the engine house, which is just six or seven blocks from the large settlement of colored people on the West Side.

CRY AGAINST RACE FIREMEN IS SEEN AS LANDGRAB COUP

DETROIT, August 19—Agents of banking and real estate organizations were reported to be continuing their activities in attempting to stir up feeling against two Detroit Race firemen. Martin H. White and Marcena Taylor, who have been assigned to Engine House No. 34, are the fire fighters about whom the controversy centers.

The City Council recently refused to listen to the pleas of a group of white property owners of the Livernois avenue district who appeared before the council to protest the assigning of the two firemen to the district. John R. Mejer, 6353 Walton avenue, told the Council "the presence of Negroes at the station on 24-hour shifts violates neighborhood restrictions against Negroes living in the district."

A mob attempted to prevent the men from entering the first station last week.

The Tory-inspired campaign against Race firemen is featured by an attempt to drive Polish residents of the neighborhood to sell their properties at ridiculously low prices with the argument that the presence of Race folk will depreciate property values.

Need For Negroes Revealed

Propose Colored Officers For Kalamazoo Beats

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—(WNS)—A few weeks ago a colored paper was quoted as saying that Police Commissioner would not appoint a Negro Policeman because there aren't enough Negroes n Kalamazoo. A reporter of the Echo has gotten together the new facts concerning this remark.

Kalamazoo has a total population of 58,000 people; of this group there are 1400 Negroes and no Colored policemen. In the city of Battle Creek there is a policeman and their Negro population is not much more than ours. Another example of this is in Hamtramck, Michigan with a total population about the same as Kalamazoo, there are 9 Colored Policemen and they serve their community regardless of color or creed.

Lansing is another city faced with the same problem. There are 1600 Negroes in Lansing and the people of that city are fighting for at least one of their race to be put on the force.

Of the 1400 Negroes in Kalamazoo there must be some one qualified for the position. Let this fact remain with you. Would a colored policeman be limited to arrest only Negroes or would he arrest all the law breakers?

Policemen and Firemen - 1938

New Jersey

No Appointments To Police Force

The hope of many colored applicants for positions in the Newark Police Department was temporarily blasted Saturday when Director of Public Safety Michael P. Duffy announced that he had dropped a request in his 1938 budget for $105,000, which was to be used to pay the salary of new additions to the police and fire departments.

Civil Service tests already have been given to applicants for the police and fire posts. Duffy had intended to make the appointments July 1.

No police or firemen have been appointed since 1931. Since that time there have been many deaths and retirements.

Promotions For Colored Police

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—SNS Rumors to the effect that promotions in the local police department, among Colored members, will take place shortly is the current day topic of both those in and out of the political circles. With an election that promises to be one of the hottest for many a year, now at hand, it is almost a sure thing that Negroes in this particular department will receive consideration in the way of promotions.

Too, it is pointed out by political "gossipers," that congregate on street corners day after day discussing their views of the situation, that unless some Negroes receive elevations to part-way equalize the recent elevations in the department among the whites, a stumbling block will automatically move its way around about the backtown community, which will at this time "hurt" the powers that be.

One fellow, backtown, who is likely to be made a Detective at almost any moment, is Radio Car Officer James Jones. From sources close to the powers that be, it is learned that the big boss, Mr. Johnson, has already kinda' given him the nod. Speaking of our Colored officers in the department, it must be said that we have a splendid bunch of chaps, who have all made records for themselves—but Mr. Jones, when it comes to elevations, seems to top the list and why shouldn't he? In making his record it can be found that he was one of the brave officers that captured a "killer," by the name of Lucius Jackson, in less than five hours after he directed a load of bullets into the body of the late Clarence Williams. Too, adding to his efficiency as an officer he was responsible for the breaking up of a juvenile vice den operated by one Archie Thomas, in an apartment on North Indiana Avenue, where small girls were being used by men for immoral purposes. These two historic duties performed by Mr. Jones gained for him wide acclaim not only from the public, but from his superior officers. Although no one can tell what will happen, and who will be elevated among the Colored officers of the city, but as the rumor goes, if any one be promoted, Jones will not be forgotten.

Policemen and Firemen—1938

New York

COMMEND COP FOR CAPTURES

Amsterdam News 2-5-38

Personal commendation in the form of a letter from Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine was received Friday by Patrolman Sanford Johnson of the 32d Precinct for the part he played last week in the apprehension of three members of a burglary gang. New York, N.Y.

"It is noted that, as a result of your efficiency, a number of other prisoners were taken into custody by detectives, all of whom are involved in the commission of three robberies and eighteen burglaries.

"It is indeed encouraging and gratifying for the police commissioner to know that a member of the force performed a duty that reflects credit to the entire department, and I take this means to express my personal commendation of your action."

It was during the afternoon last Thursday that Johnson noticed three men at 147th street and Eighth avenue carrying a suitcase each and a radio. When he apprehended them a block further up, he questioned them and found, he said, that they had robbed an apartment at 2525 Seventh avenue.

The three men gave their names as Solomon Washington, 18, of 2782 Eighth avenue; Alvin Bostic, 19, of 47 West 139th street, and James Burney, 17, of 2762 Eighth avenue. Washington and Bostic, police said, had previous criminal records.

The trio were charged with burglary. Burney then allegedly told police of Bostic and Washington and several other men who maintained an apartment at 298 West 149th street. There police found loot taken from previous robberies.

Also implicated in the ring, police said, were Jack Ross, 19, of 2672 Eighth avenue; William Smyer, 20, of 298 West 134th street, and Fulton Taylor, 20, of 1 East 119th street, who were arrested after a complaint by Albert Ellinger of 220 Bradhurst avenue.

The defendants were arrainged before Magistrate McKinery in Magistrates' Court and held for action by the Grand Jury.

Banquet Patrolman At End Of 20 Years Rewarded

FREEMAN H. AVERETT

Whose completion of 20 years' service as patrolman in the local Police Bureau was celebrated, last Thursday with a testimonial reception at St. Luke Hall, 1709 north 19th street, attended by members of the I. O. O. of St. Luke, of which he is an active member, by fellow members of the police force and other citizens. The affair was sponsored by the Lucky Star Saving Club.

Participating on the program were Rev. Mr. Cooper, of Jones Tabernacle AME Church; little Miss Thomasina Johnson, Miss Janie E. Shelton, Mrs. Gathering Stansbury, little Miss Margaret Bridges, Sgt. Robert B. Forgy, Patrolmen Richard Anderson, Horace White, Jesse H. Smith, General Fleming and Edward Nelson; Mrs. Hattie C. Sharp, Mr. St. George Tucker, Mrs. L. B. Smith, Mrs. Eliz. B. Green, A. R. Ebron and Mrs. Josephine Holmes, all members of the St. Luke Order; Mrs. Sara Cook, Mr. and Mrs. James E. Tate, Mr. Jenkins, Rev. R. F. Polk, and C. J. Brown, who acted as master of ceremonies.

The guest of honor received several gifts. Numerous letters and telegrams of congratulation were read.

Among the members of the committee of arrangement who deserve special commendation were Joseph Hicks, Mrs. Nannie M. Gordon and Mrs. Myrtle F. Bridges.

——A Colored Judge——

HAMILTON JONES, only Negro member of the East Orange, N. J. police force, recently was placed on the honor roll because he nabbed three bandits single-handed. Jones, shown above looking very business-like, is a very popular member of the community and is held in high regard by his fellow officers and superiors. (Photo by Ackis).

SERGEANT PYLE AUTHORIZED TO USE FIRST AID PLATES ON CAR

HOUSTON.—Sergeant L. D Pyle, head of the Safety Department of the Public Schools, and now engaged in organizing safety units in Negro schools, was notified Monday that he is authorized by the American Red CSros, Washington, D. C., to use the emergency and first aid plates on the front and back of his car. His is the second car to be so authorized in Houston.

Sergeant Pyle has received five certificates in five different first aid schools. He carries a full line of first aid equipment, includeing both arm and leg splints, and all aid equipment, medicine, etc., needed. So good are the people thus authorized to carry the emergency plates that when in emergencies they put an arm or leg in splints, it is seldom that the doctors in the hospitals take it out of their splints.

Negro Firemen Being Sent To Harlem, See Discriminatory Move

What is believed to be a move to establish Negro fire companies in Harlem was brought to light last week when reporters for The New York Age in a checkup of recent appointees to the Fire Department discovered that there is a tendency on the part of a high official of the department to assign Negro firemen in groups in certain companies.

There are between 35 and 40 Negroes now in the New York Fire Department with some eleven of them being assigned to Harlem. At Engine Company 58, 125th street, between Lenox and Fifth avenues, there are four Negro firemen. At Hook and Ladder Co. 28, and Engine Co. 69, 143rd street between 7th and 8th avenues there are also four Negro firemen, while in Engine Co. 91 on 111th street and in Engine Co. 17, in Ludson street there are three Negro firemen in each. The remaining Negroes are scattered throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn.

It is said that this concentration of Negro firemen in Harlem might be the forerunner of the establishment of Negro fire companies and as soon as the new men have had sufficient experience in other companies they may be transferred to Harlem to all-Negro platoons.

A protest against such a move will be made to Fire Commissioner John J. McElligot.

A VALIANT POLICEMAN

WE ARE PROUD of the fact that Detective Charles A. Barts has been singled out by the committee of awards of the New York City Police Department as one of the 26 policemen to be given medals for bravery during 1937.. It shows that the department knows no color line in making its awards but merely reviews the records of its men and recognizes only those who have been found exceptionally worthy. Incidently, it now marks the third or fourth consecutive year that a Negro policeman has been singled out for a medal award by the department.

What a far different picture is presented now to when Samuel J. Battle became the first Negro policeman in New York City about a quarter of a century ago. Practically kicked from "pillar to post", Battle, by an indomitable will stuck it out and paved the way for others to come. Today, Battle is now a lieutenant, there are two other acting lieutenants and some 150 men and women in all branches of the department with each succeeding examination seeing more and more Negroes entering the department.

Under the present head of the department, Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine, the undesirables are being gradually found out and discharged and only merit counts. A stern disciplinarian; he is doing a good job of it.

Yes, the lot of the Negro in the Police Department has been immeasurably improved as time has gone on. We're proud of our "Men in Blue" and every time we see them rewarded our chests swell with pride

Colored Fire Chief Commands Six Companies; Receives Salary Of $5,300 Year

FIRE CHIEF

NEW YORK—(ANP) — When Mayor LaGuardia shook hands and congratulated Wesley Williams Friday at noon on the steps of the city hall, it marked another step in the steady climb up the ladder for the first Negro in the N. Y. City fire department for Wesley, as he is well known in Harlem by his host of friends, made the grade of battalion chief, carrying a nifty salary of $5,300 per annum and a command of six fire companies.

Chief Williams has come up from the ranks in the hard way. When he first went into the department he was assigned to one of the toughest stations in the service, where through his efficiency with his fists, he soon won the respect of his fellow workers. Not that Chief Williams was pugnacious, but he was often provoked to defend himself.

And right up through the grades he went, firemen first class; lieutenant; captain and now battalion chief. His accomplishments were won solely on merit, each promotion being made as the result of a competitive examination. His physical rating is one of the highest in the department, and his record as a firefighter is almost unequalled in the department.

When first promoted to the rank of lieutenant, Chief Williams was asked to take a post in a Harlem company. He refused to do this, declaring that his own people knew him as a lieutenant, but he wanted others to know as well. Therefore, he was kept in his old company and now makes his headquarters with that outfit.

It is his job to attend every fire in his district, riding to the fire in a special car with a private chauffeur, supervising all work while at a conflagration and supervising the activities of the units under his command. Chief Williams is one of the best liked officers in the department, and has his sights set on 1s higher rating before his retirement. He is also one of the youngest battalion chiefs, being around forty-five years of age.

WESLEY WILLIAMS
who has promoted from a captaincy to battalion chief in the New York City fire department at an annual salary of $5300 last week. It is his job to attend all fires in his district, riding in a special car with a chauffeur, supervising all work at a fire and supervising the activities of the units under his command.

OUR BATTALION CHIEF

CONGRATULATIONS to Wesley Williams, who on Thursday became the first Negro to attain the rank of battalion chief (salary $5,300 a year) in the New York City Fire Department. For twenty years, Mr. Williams has been a member of the Fire Department and for quite a few years was the lone Negro fireman in the city. His promotion followed a competitive examination for the position.

Unlike other cities where Negroes are employed in Fire Departments and they have Negro fire houses only in Negro sections, there is no all-Negro fire station in this city, in fact the majority of the some two dozen Negro firemen are stationed elsewhere. Mr. Williams has never served in Harlem, being stationed downtown as have a majority of our other Negro firemen, an evidence that there is no prejudice in the department.

While all of the daily newspapers carried news stories and pictures of the new battalion chief, we believe the editorial remarks of The Herald-Tribune, worthy of reproduction. The paper said in part:

"The promotion of Wesley Williams—is noteworthy largely because it does not create a sensation. Time was when such a promotion would have been genuinely astonishing: it still would be in some parts of the United States. Williams himself sums up the modern attitude: 'I am very grateful to the taxpayers of New York because they seem to be unbiased and willing to rate a man on his ability alone'—He is a credit not only to his father, the redoubtable Jim Williams, chief of the redcaps at Grand Central Terminal, but to his race and the City of New York. It will be recalled by some oldtimers that when the first Negro was appointed a member of the department, Sam Battle, he had tough sledding for a time. He, like Williams and other colored members of the city's uniformed services, won promotion on merit and won respect by patience and ability."

And while we're congratulating Battalion Chief Williams, we should also like to compliment Detective Charles Barts who recently attained the rank of first grade in the Police Department, making him the fourth Negro detective with the rank in the department now.

Yes, we're making headway.

Policemen and Firemen—1938

New York.

COLORED POLICEWOMEN MAY SOON BE EMPLOYED, REPORTS FROM CIVIL SERVICE INDICATE

NEW YORK N. Y.—(SNS)—New York City Negroes who are anxious to secure city jobs are advised by the National Urban League to watch carefully within the next two weeks for press notices of examinations to be scheduled for positions in the skilled trades, clerical work and for policewoman. The Civil Service Commission will soon announce complete requirements and application dates for the following: Clerk (Grade 3 and Grade 4—EBR); Policewoman; Inspector of Light and Power, Grade 3; Supervisor of Park Operations; Associate Assistant Corporation Counsel, Grade 4; District Health Officer; Announcer Municipa Broadcasting System; X-Ray Technician; Laboratory Helper Clock Repairer; Auto Machinst and Auto Mechanic.

The examination which will be of particular interest to young colored women between the ages of 21 and 29, who weigh at least 120 pounds and are 5 feet 2 inches in height, is the one for Policewoman, and for which requirements include high school graduation and at least two years of experience in any one of a large variety of occupations such as teaching, social work, stenography, athletics, journalism, bookkeeping, legal, medical, law enforcing, and nursing. Other combinations of education and experience which might qualify persons for detective work will be accepted and it is anticipated that these positions, which pay $2,000 a year, will attract a number of former ERB employees.

T. Arnold Hill, Director of the League's Department of Industrial Relations, in commenting on the examinations said: "The opportunity presented to young women to render a special type of social service as policewomen should attract a number of Negroes. The need for a greater number of Negro policewomen in the city service—there are now only four is very apparent. The disproportionate high rate of juvenile deliquency among Negroes needs to be reduceod, and this may prove to be one means toward this end.

"In addition," Mr. Hill continued, "the few Negro men employed under Civil Service in the skilled trades, as pointed out by the New York State Commission on the Urban Colored Population, should be increased, and these examinations afford an excellent employment opportunity for young men who have special vocational skills and training."

Seek Negro Policewomen

NEW YORK—(SNS)—The National Urban League on Monday urged colored women, between the ages of 21 and 29, who weigh 120 and are 5 feet 2 inches, and who are high school graduates with two years experience in social work or business, to be on the lookout for examinations for policewomen through Civil Service in New York city. There are only four colored policewomen in the service so far, and the job pays $2,000 per year.

The 'Inside Story' Of Wesley Williams, Harlem's First Fire Battalion Chief

By EDGAR T. ROUZEAU

NEW YORK, Apr. 7—The potentialities of will power in overcoming such obstacles of racial prejudice and an inadequate educational background finds one of its best illustrations in the meteoric rise of Wesley Williams, Harlem's first fire battalion chief.

His life story has all the earmarks of a Horatio Alger masterpiece. There is the instance of humble birth, limited opportunity for schooling, an early obligation to earn his own livelihood, and a driving determination to forge ahead which has sent him to one of the top rungs in the New York Fire Department.

Bosses Third Battalion.

To give him his precise title, Wesley Williams is acting chief of the third battalion, which embraces the Jewihs, Italian and Chinese sections of lower Manhattan, in addition to a long stretch of wharves and a rich warehouse district. He will be confirmed in his new rank in about three months, after the usual period of probation has expired.

He is in command of four engine companies and two hook and ladder squads, with a complement of about 200 men, including six captains. With the exception of one colored fireman, his entire command is white.

The Chief is one of four children born to Mr. and Mrs. James H. Williams, of this city. His father is the famous "Chief" Williams, supervisor of the Grand Central Red Caps force, a man known to dignitaries, statesmen and the great industrialists of the nation.

His Success Formula.

Wesley grew up in the Williamsbridge section of New York. At the age of 16 he was considered old enough to take a job and help with the family budget. He went in as an apprentice with an engineering firm which was then engaged in tunnel construction for the city, and it was in this job that he picked up a valuable lesson he has never forgotten. He found out that to make progress you had to dig, and he has been digging ever since.

He studied for a Civil Service examination as a letter carrier and was among the successful candidates. While waiting for his appointment, he worked as a Red Cap. About this time he married his boyhood sweetheart, Margaret R. Ford, of Williamsport, Pa. They have been together ever since and are the proud parents of two boys and a girl, the oldest 22.

Like most youngsters, Wesley, too, had been fascinated by the sight of fire engines scooting to a fire. He had made up his mind as a youth that he wanted to be a fireman, and he did not forget his boyhood resolve when he went to work in the postoffice. He studied for the next examination that came up, and, as he says himself, he was the happiest guy in the world when his name was posted on the list of those who passed. That was in 1919.

Dreamed of Lieutenancy.

A couple of years in this job and Wesley began to wonder if it was possible for a Negro fireman to become a lieutenant. The trick had never been done before, but he decided that it wouldn't hurt to try.

He argued that there was no sense in accusing the examiners and his superiors of being prejudiced unless he first qualified himself. So Fireman Williams dug into his jeans, bought some books and began to bulwark his meagre education.

About five years later he was eligible for the lieutenant's examniation. He was well prepared and passed high on the list. He sat back now with bated breath, to see what his superiors would do. To his great joy he was appointed. They gave you what you earned in this department. All it took was diligence and perserevance, he found out.

Now, one would think that Fireman Wesley Williams would be satisfied with a lieutenant's rank, but nothing was furthest from the truth. From the moment he was privileged to blossom out in a white cap, he began to plan for the day when he could wear a captain's service stripes. Once again he dug into his books, and his reward came in June, 1934. It was now Capt. Williams.

Goes Back to School.

The next step up the ladder of success was an even shorter one. It required technical knowledge of a high order, and for Capt. Williams it was pretty hard to get. In his late thirties, he was pursuing studies that more fortunate youngsters had been privileged to take up in their teens. It was tough having to work and go to school, but Capt. Williams had what it took.

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The exam for battalion chief came along this year. A total of 270 captains sat for this examination and 51 passed. Capt. Williams was No. 18 on the list, but was pushed further down the list as the days when he had to "eat humble pie" in the fire department in the only Negro title will be a mere formality. The new battalion chief is a clean cut athlete who remembers they gave him all the dirtiest jobs, and once or twice he had to fight, and he gritted his teeth and stuck. He stands as a shining example to the 34 other Negro firemen now on the force.

Battalion Chief Rank For New Yorker

Wesley Williams, 40, To Get Annual Salary of $5,300

(Reprinted from last week's Home Edition)

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The only Negro officer in the New York Fire Department, Captain Wesley Williams last week became the first member of his race to reach the rank of battalion chief. Captain Williams, who lives at 255 West 138th Street, and is only forty years old, was promoted, along with 73 other firemen, at special ceremonies at Fire Department Headquarters in the Municipal Building. The new rank carries with it a salary of $5,300 dollars per year.

The new battalion chief, a member of Engine Company 55 of 362 Broome Street, has established a reputation as an athlete and philosopher, as well as a student of fire-fighting science, and his present elevation marks the third time he has been promoted since he entered the department in January 1919 at the age of 21 years.

Although he had planned to leave the fire-fighting service in 1939 when his twenty years are up, he was quoted recently as saying that in view of his new rank and the introduction of the new three-platoon system, he would not retire.

GRATEFUL TO TAXPAYERS

"I am very grateful to the taxpayers of New York because they seem so unbiased and willing to rate a man on his ability alone," Captain Williams said. "They seem to pay no attention to race, creed or religion, and they are the ones who should receive compliments."

At the ceremonies Thursday morning three battalion chiefs were promoted to the rank of deputy chiefs at annual salaries of $6,300; seven captains were promoted to battalion chiefs, thirteen lieutenants to captaincies, and fifty-one first grade firemen to posts as lieutenants.

The new battalion chief attributes his rise in the department to long hours of study. Around the walls of his quarters in the firehouse are almost 100 books, ranging from scientific volumes on fire-fighting to books on social problems and philosophy.

WEIGHT-LIFTING CHAMP

Captain Williams is five feet eight inches tall and weighs 167 pounds. Twenty-two years ago he won the national Amateur Athletic Union championship for weight-lifting in the one-hand-grip division, raising 692 pounds an inch off the ground for a world's record. He still toys with the 165-pound bar bells in the penthouse gymnasium on top of the hose tower of the firehouse.

Captain Williams's grandfather, John, was born in slavery on a plantation in Norfolk, Va. His father is Jim Williams, head of the Grand Central redcaps and a friend of the late President Theodore Roosevelt. He has three children, James, 22 years old; Charles, 21, and Marguerite, 18. Both boys expect to be firemen.

After entering the department in 1919 Captain Williams received his first promotion in September, 1927, when he was made a lieutenant in Engine Company 55. On June 1, 1934, he became a captain in the same company. Before joining the Fire Department, at the age of twenty-one, he was a letter carrier.

Urge Negroes To Take Tests For Patrolman, Social Investigator

All Negroes who possess the necessary qualifications were urged this week by the National Urban League to file applications for tests for PATROLMAN and SOCIAL INVESTIGATOR, recently announced by the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

Applications for the PATROLMAN test may be obtained by mail from Room 1400 Municipal Building, Manhattan, until Wednesday, December 21st. The examination for SOCIAL INVESTIGATOR will not be held until early next year, and the date for filing applications has not yet been announced.

Patrolmen in the Police Department receive a basic salary of $2,000, with statutory increments to $3,000 per year. Those passing the test who are not appointed to the Police Department immediately will be eligible for two other Civil Service lists, one for Special Patrolman from which members of the World War service are expected to be chosen; and one for persons qualified to do particular or unusual work in crime detection or apprehension, despite the fact that they cannot pass the ordinary physical and medical tests.

All candidates will be given a mental and a physical examination. The first will be a written test designed to reveal the aptitude, intelligence initiative, reasoning ability, common sense and judgement of the candidates; the second will measure the strength, agility, stamina, coordination and endurance of the candidates.

Candidates must be not less than 5 feet 8 inches in height, and must weigh not less than 140 pounds. They must be between 21 and 29 years of age. A vision of 20|20 for each eye, without glasses, is required. There are no special educational requirements.

The test for Social Investigator will be similar to those previously held for this position, and the requirements, although not yet announced, are expected to be basically the same. The salary for the position extends to but does not include $1,800 per year, and there are possibilities of eventual promotion to such positions as Assistant Supervisor, Supervisor, Senior Supervisor, Assistant Director and Director.

Father Of Dean Hill To Retire As Policeman

URBANA, Ohio—(S N S)—Saturday, December 31, marks the completion of 42 years of faithful service as police sergeant of David L. Hill, whose resignation becomes effective at that time.

Police Sergeant Hill is the father of Dr. Charles Leander Hill, dean of Turner Theological Seminary at Morris Brown College, who recently received his Ph.D. in philosophy from Ohio State University.

After singing lead tenor [illegible] year with the Fisk Jubilee Singers, the father of the Atlanta NAACP, Sunday afternoon Emancipation Day speaker, settled down in this community [illegible] and has been a law enforcing officer ever since. He has served under 3 different mayors.

In speaking of the changes he has witnessed in the 42 years he has served on the local police department, Sergeant Hill mentioned the passing of the old-time saloon and of the old-fashioned horse car in lieu of a great influx of liquor stores, night clubs, and high-powered automobiles.

Sergeant Hill expressed satisfaction over the fact that the quality of work he did was regarded sufficiently high for other members of his race to be appointed to jobs on the force. As a matter of fact, he will be succeeded by a colored officer.

Policemen and Firemen - 1938 Oklahoma.

TULSANS PLAN TO HAVE OWN POLICE FORCE OPPOSED

Daily Worker

TULSA, Okla.—(By Preston Mayes, Jr., for ANP)—Plans formulated Saturday by three Negro Republican organizations to police that section of the city met with the disapproval of Randolph House, police chief, and other officials.

When notified of the plans of the groups, Chief House stated, "I'm not fully acquainted with plans of the Negro groups, but I can say that the Negro and other sections will be policed by paid officers."

The proposed action on the part of the organizations was taken following the dismissal of Jim Northington, Chester McCreary and C. J. Alexander, Negro officers, ten days ago. "The Negro section is better policed than any other section of the city," House explained. "Police will not sanction any efforts or program advanced by the groups."

Group leaders selected Saturday to carry out their program include A. G. W. Sango and H. J. Sanders, group 1; James Smith, H. W. Lilly and Horace Green, group 2; and S. E. Cory and W. A. Bell, group 3

Missouri Guardians of The Law Score At Policemen's Convention

Four members of the Kansas City police department who went to Dallas recently to attend the annual convention of the Texas and Oklahoma Peace Officers association. They are, left to right, John Botts, patrolman at the Municipal auditorium; Robert E. Lee, detective; Leon Jordan, plain-clothesman and Forrest Stirman, plain-clothesman. The Kansas City officers made the best showing at the convention, according to reports reaching here from the Texas city. Detective Lee was elected vice-president of the association.

Policemen and Firemen – 1938

Pennsylvania

Only 1 Negro Fire Service School Grad

Ernest Reid Assigned To Co. 11, Passes Minus Politics

Enhanced 7-21-38

Despite the fact that Negroes constitute 10 percent of the total voting population of this city, only one of the 62 graduates of the Philadelphia Training School for Fire Service, last week, was a Negro.

Philadelphia

The lone colored graduate was Ernest Reid assigned to Engine Company No. 11, located on South street near 10th.

The diplomas were delivered by Mayor S. Davis Wilson at the graduation exercises held in the yard of the Ferguson School, Seventh and Norris streets, opposite the training school located at 2031 N. Seventh street.

Mayor Wilson hailed the class as the first "non-political group" in the history of the Fire Department. "This is the first time in history where the Mayor has selected candidates without political backing," he declared.

They're all here but five . . . but here's a picture of the members of Engine Co. No. 11, at 10th and South streets, the only colored fire company in the city. Captain Peter C. Graham is not included in the picture. He was on sick leave when the picture was taken. Others not included in the picture are Firemen John Jackson, Ernest Reid, Adolph Reyes and David Mullin. In the picture, left to right, are: Sitting: James Beatie, Duleka Grinnage, Thomas Seldom, Lieut. James G. Davis, Augustus Wood, Howard Graham, Samuel Singleton. Standing: Eugene Greene, David Lee, Howard Faegans, Lawrence Bell, Octavius Reid, Guernsey Booth, Harry Archer, Joseph Marshall, Harry Smith, Dumah Reid, Massel Munro, Edward Johnson, Frank Cowdery.

Enhanced 10-6-38 Philadelphia

UP THE LADDER IN PHILLY

Afro-American
10-8-38

Promotions were in order at Philadelphia's Engine Company No. 11, Tuesday, when Samuel Singleton was promoted to lieutenant, Peter C. Graham, captain, and James D. Davis, commandant, left to right, above. Captain Graham holds the destinction of being the first fire-eater (colored) to be a lieutenant and captain. He was detailed from the fire school to head Engine Company No. 11.

Policemen and Firemen-1938

Pennsylvania

State Police Continue To Ignore Negro

Recent Addition Of 238 Men To Staff Emphasizes Constant Slight

EX-NAVY MAN HEAD

Tribune

State Spends $1,000 On Each Aspirant In Training Period

6-14-39

By HAROLD E. THOMPSON
Tribune Harrisburg Bureau

HARRISBURG, May — The completion of a course of training by 238 men last week, that qualifies them for membership in the Pennsylvania State Police corps brings the full strength of the State constabulary to 1,502—with not a Negro included in the entire setup.

A provision for an increase in the membership of the State Police to 1,600 was included in legislation passed recently by the State Legislature, and having the sanction of Governor Earle—but there was not the slightest reference to dropping the traditionally implied barriers that have prevented Negroes from obtaining appointment in this law enforcement group.

Commissioner P. W. Foote, in charge of the State Police, is a former naval man, and is a recent appointee of the present Democratic administration. It is not known, definitely what his attitude is in connection with the enrollment of Negroes in the department he heads.

However, it is known that past efforts of Negroes to be considered for membership in the State police have been futile.

There are now two training schools, the one above, and the other at Hershey. The former teaches traffic problems and crime, the latter specializes in crime, and serves as a post graduate school. A special course will be placed at the disposal of local police officers from thruout the State at the Myerstown School, thus giving them an opportunity to study scientific sleuthing.

The course of training to become a second class private requires six months, and costs the State approximately $1000, thus rigid requirements are necessary to protect that investment.

The requirements are: 1st, applicants must be a native of the United States, preferably Pennsylvania; 2nd, must be between the ages of 26 and 30 years old; 3rd, not under 155 pounds; 4th, height, 55 feet 8 inches in stockings; 5th, graduate of an accredited high school, or its equivalent; 6th, rigid physical examination by Major Johnson, the Commission's physician, makes it necessary to be nearly perfect physically; 7th, must be unmarried, and, if all requirements are met, and be be assigned, he may not marry as long as he is a second class private, without special permission. Oral examinations at frequent intervals are given to determine the quickness in making decisions.

Policemen and Firemen-1938

South Carolina.

BEAUFORT HAS OFFICER

BEAUFORT, S. C.—Capt. John Davis is in his fourth year here as a member of the local police force.

Policemen and Firemen—1938

Tennessee

NashvilleGetsCop

NASHVILLE, (ANP).—In return for support in the last election, J. W. Hardison was appointed as an orderly to Mayor Thomas L. Cummings.

Will Nathan, automobile salesman, was named special policeman for the colored district in North Nashville covering the Fisk, Meharry and university sections.

Cummings won by a 6,000 majority and got 3,000 colored votes.

Policemen and Firemen - 1938

Wyoming.

Advances From Custodian To Finger Print Bureau Chief in Sheridan, Wyo.

SHERIDAN, Wyo.—Municipal administrations have come and gone many times during the past 22 years, but one figure—Chester Jefferson Powell, custodian of the city hall—has remained a constant and important factor.

The regular "house - cleanings" have never affected Chester, who said yesterday "I guess they always thought I was okay, since they never seemed to bother much about me."

CHESTER J. POWELL

Heads Fingerprint Bureau

Today Chester adds another to his long list of duties—he has been given charge of the city's new finger-printing bureau, new in the sense that it is now recognized as an integral part of the Sheridan police department.

Fingerprinting has been an interest of Powell since Grant Rogers first established the bureau here. He is, at the present time, a student in the Institute of Applied Science and—if a survey of his examination papers are any indication—a top-ranking student.

"A considerable portion of the public," Chester stated, "has not yet been convinced of the value of the science for civilian identification, although the breaking down of this prejudice is being gradually accomplished."

Came Here in 1910

Powell, who was born and raised near Savannah, Mo., came to Sheridan in 1910 following his withdrawal from the University of Kansas due to a football injury. His education, however, was not neglected—he is a graduate of the International Correspondence school in the department of commercial law.

His first employer, he recalled, was C. R. Massey, a banker. It was Massey's recommendation which placed Chester in the city hall as its custodian in 1916—a position which he has held continuously since.

From time to time Chester has served as an extra on the police force and, several times, has been a part of some very exciting moments: He narrowly missed being locked up in a box car with other officers by a lone gunman and later was a member of the sheriff's posse which captured the gunman about five miles from town following a horse-and-buggy chase in which W. H. Wallace received a .45 bullet through his hat.

On another ocasion Powell "captured" a hunted murderer single-handed. He was seated one evening at the police station desk while the other officers were out searching for a known murderer.

The man suddenly appeared in the doorway, practically frozen, and gave himself up. Chester chuckled as he told of the skepticism registered by the officers on their return when he informed them that their bad-man was safely locked up.

But Chester could not be kept from his favorite subject of crime-detection and fingerprinting. "The purpose of registering a person's prints," he said, "should be to prevent him from drifting in crime rather than to help apprehend him later.

"The time is not far off," he continued, "when universal fingerprint registration will be a reality and people will think no more of it than they do of carrying an automobile registration number."

Knows Latest Methods

The latest methods of printing, filing and "mugging" (photographing) prisoners, used in the most modern police departments are a part of Powell's knowledge. His brother, Virgil, who is fingerprint expert with the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, police department, explained the entire set-up of their station to him on a recent visit.